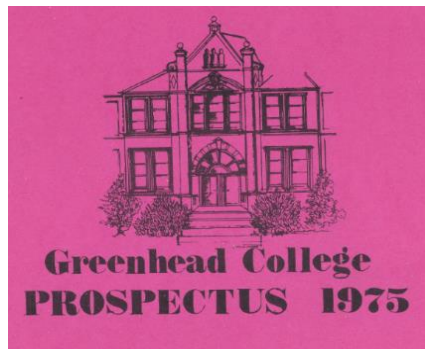


Dear A2 students,

As you prepare for your last week of lessons and the start of examinations, I am sending you this note to thank you for choosing Greenhead College, to wish you good luck in your exams and to express my best wishes for the future.

You are a special group of students because you have completed your A Levels in Greenhead's Golden Anniversary year. Sadly, I don't have a prospectus from the first year of the College (1973-74), but I do have one from 1975, which was when the very first cohort of Greenhead students sat their A Level exams. Here's an extract from it:



TWO-YEAR COURSE TO 'A' LEVEL

The courses are set out on this page - in Blocks Q, X, Y, Z. Courses above the double line either lead to 'A' level or are intended primarily for students taking 'A' level courses in two or three of the other blocks. Below the line are courses from the Intermediate course (leading to 'O' &/or C.S.E. :) which can be combined with 'A' level subjects.

BLOCK Q	BLOCK X	BLOCK Y	BLOCK Z	5TH BLOCK
English Pure Maths with Statistics Maths Biology Religious Studies Latin Art P.E. Special Latin - 'O'	English Maths French Biology D.S.(Dress) Economics Geology - 'O' Spanish - 'O'	English Further Maths French Chemistry - Nuffield Chemistry Syllabus A D.S. (Food) +History Syllabus B Physics Geology +History Syllabus A Alternative F	Geography Chemistry Syllabus B Physics German +History Syllabus A Alternative J Music *Geometrical and Engineering Drawing *Surveying *Engineering Science *Tee Line Shorthand - R.S.A.	GAMES (2 periods) P.S./P.E. (2 periods) GENERAL STUDIES (3 periods)
English Human Biology Typing - R.S.A.:	Chemistry History Syllabus G Cookery German	English English Literature Biology	Maths Art Physics	*Geometrical and Engineering Drawing

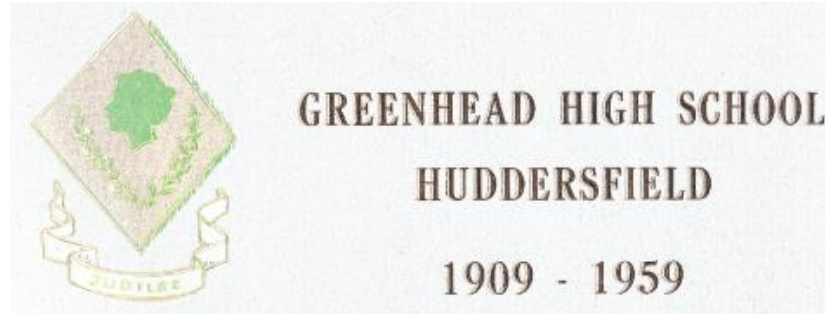
With very few exceptions each 'A' level takes up 7 periods per week, each other course 5 periods per week.

+ Advanced Level History, Syllabus A, Alternative F: 16th - 18th Century European with 16th Century English; Alternative J: 18th - 20th Century European with 19th Century British; Syllabus B: British Economic and Social from 1700 - 1939.

As you can see, many things have changed since that first cohort of students sat their A Levels almost 50 years ago. For a start, the prospectus was hand-typed. A mix of A Levels and O Levels were offered. (O Levels were the precursor to GCSEs.) D.S. stood for Domestic Science, which had two strands - Fashion/Fabrics and Food. Also on the syllabus were courses in Latin, Shorthand, Typing, Cookery and Games (which would have been physical exercise).

So in many ways, it would have been a very different Greenhead College to the one you are used to!

However, I managed to delve further back and found this commemorative newsletter from 1959, celebrating the first 50 years of Greenhead as a high school for girls. I think these introductory comments made by Harold Gray, the Chief Education Officer of Huddersfield Borough Council, are extraordinarily perceptive, given they were written by a man over 60 years ago:



The first fifty years of Greenhead's life have witnessed very great changes in the structure of our English society and none of them more striking than the change which has taken place in the status of women. In the pages which follow we are told that the first Headmistress of the School could not, because she was a woman, be admitted to graduateship of the University of Cambridge, even though she was qualified by examination, and that the proposal to establish a grammar school for girls in Huddersfield gave rise to much heated controversy. Since that time, women have won for themselves one freedom after another, not always without bitter struggle, and we stand now at a point in our history when the equality of women with men is conceded as a principle. It is women who were the products of schools like Greenhead who have been mainly responsible for the advance which has been made, and old girls of the school in their particular spheres have played their part, if only by exerting a merely local influence in favour of what their fellow-women were attempting in the national scene.

The first fifty years, however, are by no means the end of the story. We have yet to learn how women will make use of their newly-won freedom and equality. We live in what is often described as a man's world, where force is apparently the ultimate arbiter and where, in international relationships, selfish ends are taken to justify ruthless means. I think that all of us believe that, if mankind succeeds in prolonging human existence on earth, an international society is inevitable and that before we achieve it, catastrophe will overtake us unless a gentler way of living is bred into our civilisation. That is the kind of objective that one hopes the women of our time will now set themselves to attain. The opportunity is theirs if they are able to seize it, but the struggle will be infinitely greater than anything that the first fifty years have seen. The example of the past is put before the girls of Greenhead in this history to be a spur to their endeavour in the years which will lead them proudly to the centenary of the school.

H. GRAY
Chief Education Officer.

Although the author is writing from the perspective of Greenhead being a girls' high school (which it then was) and some of the language is old-fashioned by today's standards, I found this particular passage very striking: ***"We live in what is often described as a man's world, where force is apparently the ultimate arbiter and where, in international relationships, selfish ends are taken to justify ruthless means...an international society is inevitable and that before we achieve it, catastrophe will overtake us unless a gentler way of living is bred into our civilisation."***

In my view, there is a connection between those words from **1959** and your year group of **2024**.

Throughout your two years at Greenhead College, you have shown that it **is** possible to build an 'international society' through:

- Your support for worthy causes, such as the **Pakistan Flood Appeal** and **Project Youth Cancer**;
- Your rejection of Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in the **Gaza fundraising campaign**;
- Your concern about misogynistic abuse of women and girls via your commitment to awareness-raising of **Public Sexual Harassment**; and
- The way you have embraced the richness of diversity in all its forms in events such as **Culture Day** and **LGBTQ+ History Month**.



And all of this has been accomplished in addition to your academic and extracurricular achievements!

If you take these values with you to the next stage of your education and training, and through the rest of your life, we will indeed achieve a 'gentler way of living' in the way Harold Gray envisaged all those years ago.

You may be apprehensive about what happens next after your A Levels. I think that's natural. As I prepare to leave Greenhead, I am also hesitant about what the future may hold. The key is to keep going. Seek out new challenges when they arise. Be optimistic. And above all, be kind to yourself and to others.

It is your commitment to our core Greenhead values which leaves me in no doubt that you will cope with any challenges that lie ahead. I firmly believe you will do brilliantly in your exams and go on to obtain great success in the future.

It has been the privilege of my life to be the custodian of Greenhead College for the last eight years and an absolute pleasure to be Principal during your time here. I count it as my honour to have known and worked with you.

Stay safe and well, and I wish you and your families all the very best for the future.

Simon